



PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

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STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN FLOYD SPENCE

DREIER AMENDMENT

FY01 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

I appreciate the willingness of the Chairman of the Rules Committee to work with me in trying to find a legislative outcome that would ensure U.S. national security is not compromised by the export of high-performance computers to dangerous entities in countries of proliferation concern. I believe that this amendment, which would reduce the current waiting period for certain computer exports to these countries from 180 days to 60 days, excluding the period of time when the Congress has adjourned sine die, is an acceptable compromise.

Personally, I would have preferred a longer time frame for review, in order to allow Congress an opportunity to more fully debate and review significant changes that the Administration may propose in the level of computing capability that may be exported to certain users without government knowledge, especially during periods when Congress is in recess.

Those of us who have expressed national security concerns about the liberalization of export control policies under this Administration recognize that technology is advancing rapidly. The underlying legislation this amendment would change also recognizes this fact by allowing the Administration to make such adjustments in the level of computing power that can be exported without government review.

Nevertheless, I believe this amendment strikes an appropriate balance between commercial concerns and national security requirements. Because of this, Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and reserve the balance of my time.

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